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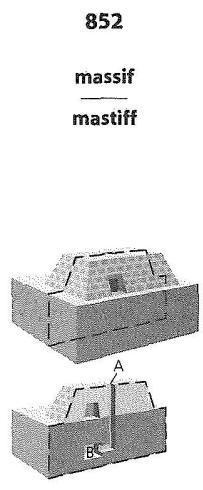
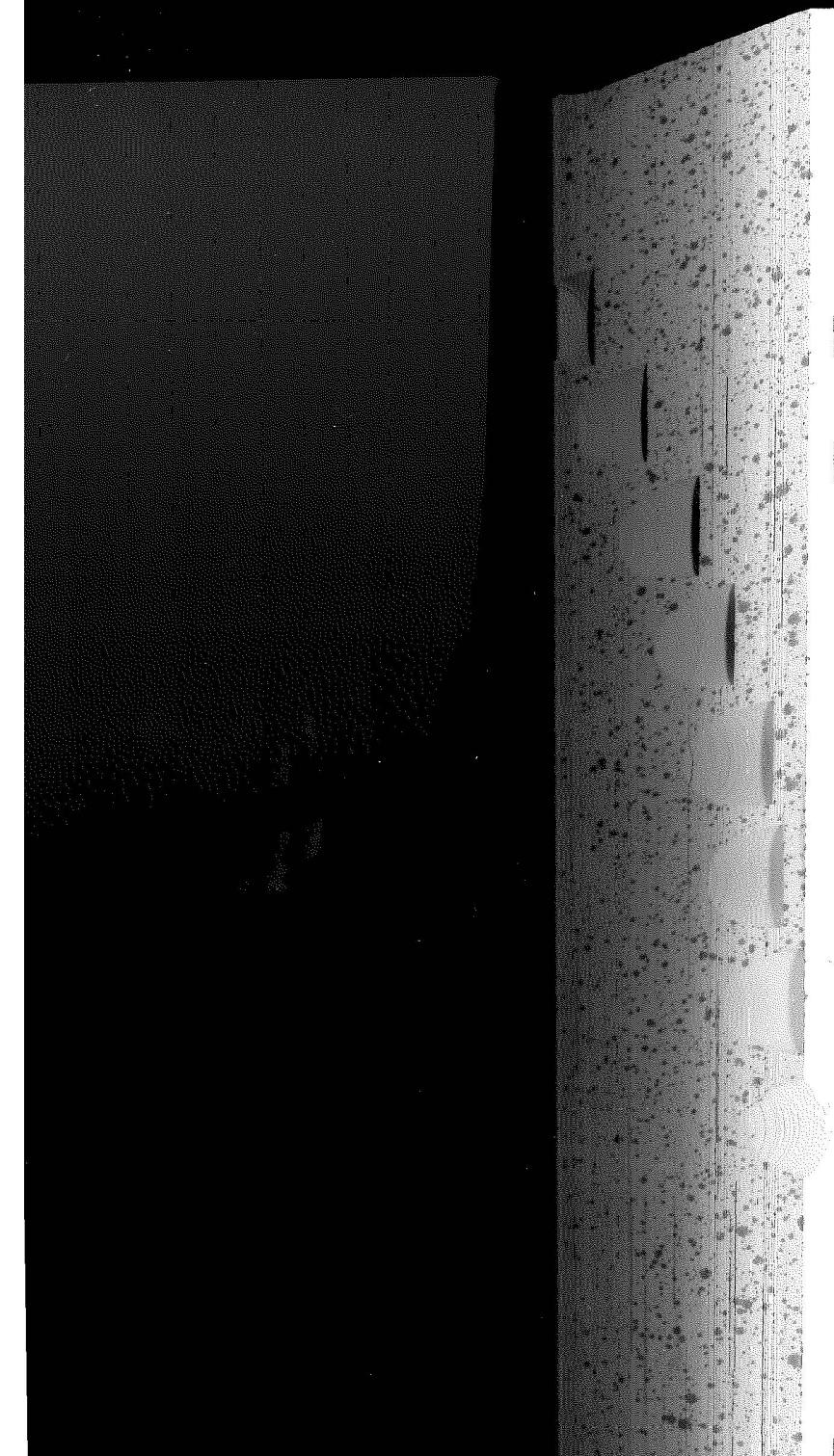
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mastaba
top: exterior view
bottom: cross section
revealing the shaft (A) and
the burial chamber (B)

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massif

mastiff

mas·sif (mä-sëf') *n.* 1. A mountain or compact group of connected mountains forming an independent portion of a range. 2. A large section of the earth's crust that is more rigid than the surrounding rock and has been moved or displaced as a unit. [Fr., massive, *massif* < OFr. See MASSIVE.]

Massif Cen·tral (sän-träl', sän-) A mountainous plateau of S-central France rising to 1,887.3 m (6,188 ft).

Mas·sine (mä-sin'), Léonide 1896–1979. Russian-born Amer. choreographer whose ballets include *Parade* (1917).

Mas·sin·ger (mä'sin-jër), Philip 1583–1640. English playwright best known for *A New Way to Pay Old Debts* (c. 1625).

mas·sive (mä-siv') *adj.* 1. Consisting of or making up a large mass; bulky, heavy, and solid; *a massive piece of furniture*. 2. Large or imposing, as in quantity, scope, or degree. 3. Large in comparison with the usual amount: *a massive dose of a drug*. 4. *Pathology* Affecting a large area of bodily tissue; widespread and severe: *massive gangrene*. 5. *Mineralogy* Lacking internal crystalline structure; amorphous. 6. *Geology* Without internal structure or layers and homogeneous in composition. Used of a rock. [ME *massif* < OFr. < *masse*, mass. See MASS.] —*mas·sive·ly* *adv.* —*mas·sive·ness* *n.*

Massive, Mount A peak, 4,398.4 m (14,241 ft), in the Sawatch Range of the Rocky Mts. in central CO.

mas·less (mä'slis') *adj.* Having a mass of zero.

mass medium *n., pl.* **mass media** A means of public communication to a large audience.

mass noun *n.* A noun, such as *sand*, *oil*, or *honesty*, that denotes a substance or concept indivisible into countable units and is preceded in English indefinite constructions by modifiers such as *some* or *much* rather than *a* or *one*.

mass number *n.* The sum of the number of neutrons and protons in an atomic nucleus.

mass production *n.* The manufacture of goods in large quantities, often using standardized designs and assembly-line techniques. —*mass·pro·duce'* (mä's-prö-dooz') *v.*

mass spectrograph *n.* An instrument used to determine the masses of atoms or molecules, in which an electromagnetic field separates ions according to their masses and the resulting spectrum is recorded on a photographic plate. —*mass spectrography* *n.*

mass spectrometer *n.* A mass spectrograph that records its data electronically. —*mass spectrometry* *n.*

mass spectroscope *n.* Any of various devices that use magnetic fields, electric fields, or both to determine the masses of isotopes in a sample by producing a mass spectrum. —*mass spectroscopy* *n.*

massy (mä'së) *adj.* -i·er, -i·est Having great mass or bulk.

mast¹ (mäst) *n.* 1. *Nautical* A tall vertical spar that rises from the keel or deck of a sailing vessel to support the sails and the standing and running rigging. 2a. A vertical pole. b. A tall vertical antenna, as for a radio. 3. A captain's mast. [ME < OE *mast*.]

mast² (mäst) *n.* The nuts of forest trees accumulated on the ground, used esp. as food for swine. [ME < OE *mæst*.]

mast·pref. Variant of *masto-*.

mas·ta·ba also **mas·ta·bah** (mäst'ə-bä) *n.* An ancient Egyptian tomb with a rectangular base, sloping sides, and a flat roof. [Ar. *mastabba*, stone bench < Aram. *mistubba*, , perh. of Pers. or Gk. orig.]

mast cell *n.* A cell found in connective tissue that releases substances such as histamine in response to injury or inflammation of bodily tissues. [Partial transl. of Ger. *Mastzelle*, well-fed cell (because the granules were thought to be from phagocytosis): *Mast*, food, *mast* (< MHG. < OHG.) + *Zelle*, cell.]

mas·te·co·my (mä-sték'ë-më) *n., pl.* **-mies** Surgical removal of all or part of a breast, sometimes including excision of the underlying pectoral muscles and regional lymph nodes, usu. performed as a treatment for cancer.

mas·ter (mäst'ər) *n.* 1. One that has control over another or others. 2a. The owner or keeper of an animal. b. The owner of a slave. 3. One who has control over or ownership of something. 4. The captain of a merchant ship. 5. An employer. 6. A man who is the head of a household. 7. One who defeats another; a victor. 8a. One whose teachings or doctrines are accepted by followers. b. Master Christianity Jesus. 9. A male teacher, schoolmaster, or tutor. 10. One who holds a master's degree. 11a. An artist or performer of great and exemplary skill. b. An old master. 12. A worker qualified to teach apprentices and carry on the craft independently. 13. An expert. 14a. Used formerly as a title for a man holding a naval office ranking next below a lieutenant on a war-

original from which copies are made. ♦ *tr.v.* -tered, -ter·ing, -ters 1. To act as or be the master of. 2. To make oneself a master of: mastered the language. 3. To overcome or defeat: mastered his addiction. 4. To reduce to subjugation; break or tame (an animal, for example). 5. To produce a master audio recording for: 6. To season or age (dyed goods). [ME < OE *mägister*, *mägister* < OFr. *maitre*, both < Lat. *magister*. See *meg* in App.] —*master·dom* *n.*

mas·ter-at-arms (mäst'är-ät-ärms') *n., pl.* **mas·ters-at-arms** (mäst'ärz-) A petty officer assigned to maintain order.

master chief petty officer *n.* An officer of the highest noncommissioned rank in the US Navy or Coast Guard.

master class *n.* An advanced music class taught by an eminent musician.

mas·ter·ful (mäst'är-fü'l) *adj.* 1. Given to playing the master, imperious or domineering. 2. Fit to command. 3. Revealing mastery or skill; expert: *a masterful technique*. —*mas·ter·ful·ly* *adv.* —*mas·ter·ful·ness* *n.*

master gunnery sergeant *n.* A noncommissioned officer in the US Marine Corps ranking above master sergeant and equivalent to a sergeant major.

master key *n.* A key that opens each of a given set of locks. —*mas·ter·ly* (mäst'är-lë) *adj.* Having or showing the knowledge or skill of a master. ♦ *adv.* With the skill of a master. —*mas·ter·li·ness* *n.*

master mariner *n.* See *master 4*.

mas·ter·mind (mäst'är-mind') *n.* A highly intelligent person, esp. one who plans and directs a complex or difficult project. ♦ *tr.v.* -mind·ed, -mind·ing, -minds To direct, plan, or supervise (a project or activity).

master of ceremonies *n., pl.* **masters of ceremonies** 1. One who acts as host at a formal event, making the welcoming speech and introducing other speakers. 2. One who conducts a program of entertainment by introducing other performers.

mas·ter·piece (mäst'är-pés') *n.* 1. An outstanding work of art or craft. 2. The greatest work, as of an artist. 3. Something superlative of its kind. [Prob. transl. of Du. *meesterstuk* or Ger. *Meisterstück*: Du. *meester* and Ger. *Meister*, master + Du. *stuk* and Ger. *Stück*, piece of work.]

master race *n.* A people who consider themselves to be superior to other races and therefore suited to rule over them.

Mas·ters (mäst'ärz) Edgar Lee 1869–1950. Amer. poet known for his *Spoon River Anthology* (1915).

mas·ter·s degree (mäst'ärz) *n.* An academic degree conferred by a college or university upon those who complete at least one year of prescribed study beyond the bachelor's degree.

master sergeant *n.* 1. A noncommissioned officer in the US Army ranking above sergeant first class and below sergeant major. 2. A noncommissioned officer in the US Air Force ranking above technical sergeant and below senior master sergeant. 3. A noncommissioned officer in the US Marine Corps ranking above gunnery sergeant and below sergeant major.

mas·ter·ship (mäst'är-ship') *n.* 1. The office, function, or authority of a master. 2. The skill or dexterity of a master.

mas·ter·sing·er (mäst'är-sing'ər) *n.* See *Meistersinger*.

Mas·ter·son (mäst'är-sən), William Barclay ("Bat") 1853–1921. Amer. frontier marshal famed for his exploits as an army scout, gambler, and law enforcer.

mas·ter·stroke (mäst'är-strök') *n.* An achievement or action revealing consummate skill.

mas·ter·work (mäst'är-würk') *n.* See *masterpiece 2*.

mas·ter·ry (mäst'är-ri) *n., pl.* **ies** 1. Possession of consummate skill. 2. The status of master or ruler; control: *mastery of the seas*. 3. Full command of a subject of study.

mas·head (mäst'hēd') *n.* 1. *Nautical* The top of a mast. 2. The listing in a newspaper or periodical of information about its staff, operation, and circulation. 3. The title of a newspaper or periodical on the first page, front cover, or title page.

mas·tic (mäst'ikl) *n.* 1. The aromatic resin of the mastic tree, used esp. in varnishes, lacquers, adhesives, and condiments and as an astringent. 3. A pastelike cement used in highway construction, esp. one made with powdered lime or brick and tar. [ME, mastic resin < OFr. *mastiche* < Lat. *masticum*; *mastiche* < Gk. *mastikhē*, chewing gum, mastic < *mastikhēn*, to grind the teeth.]

mas·ti·cate (mäst'i-kāt') *v.* -cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates —*tr.* 1. To chew (food). 2. To grind and knead (rubber, for example) into a pulp. —*intr.* To chew food. [LLat. *masticare*, *masticātō*, to masticate < Gk. *mastikhān* to grind the teeth.] —*mas·ti·ca·tion* *n.*